

Statement of  
**U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA)**  
Briefing on Federal Trade Commission Proposals  
House Floor Consideration of National Do-Not-Call Database  
February 12, 2003

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. I want to commend Commerce Committee Chairman Tauzin and Ranking Member Mr. Dingell for helping to set a congressional land speed record for legislating in the aftermath of the terrible Oklahoma court decision.

This legislation got to the floor faster than a consumer can hang up on a telemarketer at dinner time.

I also want to salute the efforts of Mr. Upton, Mr. Stearns, Ms. Schakowsky, and many other Committee colleagues who have helped to secure progress on this bipartisan bill.

Simply put, this legislation renders the Oklahoma court decision moot. The court said, erroneously, that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) did not have authority to create a "do-not-call" database. Today's action by the House will effectively clarify that the FTC not only has authority to implement a national telemarketing "do-not-call" database, but that Congress specifically wants the agency to proceed.

This "do-not-call" database proposal is a winner for millions of consumers who are plagued by unsolicited commercial telemarketing calls at home, or on their cellphone. Already, there are over 50 million phone numbers in the database, representing tens of millions of American consumers.

The bill the House considers today permits the FTC to proceed on a timely basis so that by October 1<sup>st</sup> consumers can begin to see a reduction in unwanted telemarketing calls.

Having first proposed a national "do-not-call" database registry in legislation that the Congress successfully enacted in 1991, I believe its implementation is action that is long overdue. Consumers across the country have clearly voted in favor by signing up for the database, indicating by the millions that they want an effective "no soliciting" sign on their home phone or cell phone. They want this national database to help to bring to a halt the seemingly nightly ritual of phone calls interrupting dinner or precious family time.

Those telephone rings invade the tranquility of the home and the Do-Not-Call database will help consumers restore peace.

I was one of the first Americans to add my phone number to the database by registering at 12:01 am on the first day it was available. I threw my cellphone number in too.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bill. I encourage Members of the House to support the bill.

Again, I want to commend Chairman Tauzin for his alacrity to bring this bill to the floor so soon after the court decision and for his excellent work with Ranking Member Mr. Dingell, Ms. Schakowsky on this issue.

Finally, I want to commend FTC Chairman Timothy Muris for his pro-consumer action in creating the FTC "do-not-call" rules. This do-not-call database will be a powerful new tool for consumers to combat unwanted telemarketing intrusions.

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